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finishes the work and his report is received nothing can be done.

75. Construction of roads and bridges.

Mr. Kuruvila Ousep (Member, Meenachil Taluk) requested that early arrangements might be made in the taluk for the proper maintenance of the existing public roads, the construction of necessary bridges and the conversion of the important village roads into cart roads.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Member might mention the urgent needs of the taluk at the meeting which will be held shortly under the presidency of the Acting Chief Engineer Mr. Jacob.

MUVATTUPUZHA TALUK.

76. Construction of a bridge across the Muvattupuzha river.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Sankaran (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that the Muvattupuzha river divided the town into two parts, the public offices and schools being on the southern side and the market and shops being on the northern side of the river. It was thus very necessary for the people to cross and re-cross the river several times every day. There were at present only ferry-boats at the place. Considering the inconvenience to the people and the possible danger to life in times of flood, he requested that a bridge might be constructed across the river at the 131st mile stone on the Main Central Road. The people would not grudge to pay any toll that might be levied after the bridge is constructed.

Dewan's reply .—Noted.

77. Reduction of the settlement rates.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Sankaran (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) represented that lands which, at the ayacut, had been recorded as single crop, were, at the recent settlement of the taluk, treated as double crop lands. Both the tharams and the rates of assessment fixed on their lands were very high. The cocoanut trees were also classed under much higher tharams than in other taluks, though they were decidedly inferior in quality. He requested therefore that a reduction of the rates might be ordered.

Dewan's reply.—The settlement of the taluk is being conducted. The Member's representation will be communicated to the Settlement Peishkar.

78. Construction of an embankment at Irookooty.

Mr. Ouseph Kuryayippu (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that, if an embankment at a height of 12 feet were constructed across the Kothamangalam river at a place called Irookooty, twelve miles from Kothamangalam,

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there would be great facility for collecting a large quantity of water, which would bring 1,000 acres of additional land under paddy cultivation. The work would not cost more than Rs. 7,000 and Government might expect an additional revenue of about Rs. 3,000 per year. If the whole cost could not be borne by Government, the Member requested that at least half the cost might be allowed as a grant to the ryots. The ryots would collect the other half by contributions and do the work themselves.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

THODUPUZHA TALUK.

79. Settlement grievances.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer (Member, Thodupuzha Taluk) said that, at the settlement now going on in the taluk, high rates have been fixed both on wet and garden lands, being two-fold and four-fold respectively as compared to the ayacut rates. Considering the hilly nature of the taluk and the frequent havoc caused by wild animals, the rates fixed were unduly high. Further, the value of even useless trees standing on puthuval lands were also being recovered. The Member therefore prayed for an early reduction of the rates of assessment.

Dewan's reply.—The settlement of the taluk is nearly over.

80. Educational needs.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer (Member, Thodupuzha Taluk) represented that, for want of an English school in the taluk, the people had to send their boys to other places for purposes of education, and that, owing to lack of means, many were unable to educate their children. In the local Vernacular school, there was not sufficient accommodation for the increasing number of pupils. The Inspector of Schools, as a result of his inspection, ordered that no more students should be admitted into the school. The Member requested that an English school and a girls' school might be opened in Thodupuzha and increased accommodation provided for the local Vernacular school.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

KUNNATNAD TALUK.

81. Establishment of a hospital or dispensary.

Mr. Eravi Narayanan (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) said that the occupation of the majority of the people of the taluk was hill cultivation and that they were constantly attacked with malarial fever and such other diseases. At present, they had to go to Muvattupuzha or Alwaye for medical

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